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## News Release

## ICE, TASK FORCE ARREST NASHVILLE CHRISTIAN RADIO DJ FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORN

Suspect reportedly downloaded child porn from the Internet

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A local Christian radio personality was arrested Thursday for possessing child pornography, following a Violent Crimes Task Force investigation led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Chris Ruleman, 40, from southern Davidson County, is the midday host for Nashville radio station 94 FM "The Fish." He appeared yesterday before a U.S. Magistrate to be formally charged.

The investigation began after the Violent Crimes Task Force received a tip from the public that Ruleman possessed child pornography on his computer. Task force members, who worked extensively on the case, investigated and confirmed that Ruleman possessed a variety of pornographic images depicting children,



which he apparently downloaded off the Internet. Ruleman was taken into custody at his home and was confined in the Metro Jail pending his appearance in federal court.

"It's disturbing to know that a media personality who touches so many lives engages in this type of destructive activity against children," said Jesse Blakeman, resident agent-in-charge of the ICE Memphis Office of Investigations. "Child pornographers will soon learn that they cannot hide behind the supposed anonymity of the Internet. We're using the child predator's own tools against him."

U.S. Attorney James K. Vines, Middle District of Tennessee, has accepted the case for prosecution. Assistant U.S. Attorney Carrie Daugherty is prosecuting the case.

Members of the Violent Crimes Task Force involved in the investigation and arrest included: the FBI, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Franklin Police Department, Lavergne Police Department and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations.

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This arrest is part of ICE's Operation Predator, a comprehensive national initiative to protect young people from sexual predators. Operation Predator targets human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,100 individuals nationwide, and deported more than 2,100 foreign nationals. In Tennessee, 43 arrests have been made under Operation Predator thus far.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the web at <a href="www.ice.gov">www.ice.gov</a>. ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or http://www.cybertipline.com.

## # ICE #

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.